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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/708,492	11/09/2000	Pui Lun Lau	11RC4937	2609

TITLE OF INVENTION: COMPUTER MULTIPLE COMMUNICATIONS PORT UNIT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	06/02/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
BRUCKART, BENJAMIN R	2446	709-227000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

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Schenectady, New York

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☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

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Date May 13, 2010

Typed or printed name Roger C. Phillips

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Pui Lun Lau)	
)	Exr: B. Bruckart
)	
Serial No.: 09/708,492)	Art Unit: 2446
)	
Filing Date: November 9, 2000)	
)	Atty Docket No.:
For: COMPUTER MULTIPLE COMMUNICATIONS PORT UNIT)	11RC4937

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**Supplemental Statement to the Examiner's Statement of the Substance of
the Interview of February 12, 2010**

SIR:

Further to the Examiner's statement of the substance of the interview of February 12, 2010 provided with the Notice of Allowance, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited documents of record teach or suggest an apparatus or method comprising the combination of elements as defined in each of the independent claims 1 and 40. In particular, none of the cited documents teach or suggest a multiple port unit adapted for coupling one or more computers to multiple peripheral devices over a network, said multiple port unit comprising: plural network ports, each of said network ports being configured to couple the multiple port unit to a computer via one or more hubs over a respective network link; plural communication serial ports, each of said communication serial ports being configured to couple the multiple port unit to a peripheral device; and a control unit to interrogate the network links and to communicatively couple said communication serial ports to a selected one of said network ports based on the

interrogation of the network links, the control unit further determining whether it is time to interrogate the network links; and the control unit interrogating the network links including checking an availability of a computer over each of the network links including comparing a single current time value received from the computer with a previous single time value received from the computer, wherein each of the single time values received from the computer reflects a period of time from a particular reference time of a day and wherein the control unit determines whether the computer is available solely on whether the current single time value is greater than the previous single time value; wherein said network ports are configured to couple the multiple port unit to plural computers and wherein said control unit is configured to interrogate each of the plural computers and to select an active computer to control the peripheral devices based on the interrogation of the computers; further wherein the control unit is configured to identify a network link as not operating properly based on the interrogation and to prevent further interrogation thereof for a preset period of time.

Also, none of the cited documents teach or suggest a method of coupling plural peripheral devices to computers, said method comprising the steps of: interrogating the status of plural network connections with a control unit of a multiple port unit having plural network ports coupled to the computers via one or more hubs over the plural network connections and plural communication serial ports coupled to peripheral devices, the control unit determining whether it is time to interrogate prior to performing the interrogation; and coupling the plural

communication serial ports to one of the network connections based on the results of said step of interrogating the status of plural network connections; and the interrogating including checking an availability of a computer over each of the network links including comparing a single current time value received from the computer with a previous single time value received from the computer, wherein each of the single time values received from the computer reflects a period of time from a particular reference time of a day and wherein the availability of a computer is solely determined by whether the current single time value is greater than the previous single time value; interrogating the status of plural computers respectively coupled to the network connections; and controlling the peripheral devices based on the results of said step of interrogating the status of plural computers; and identifying a network link as not operating properly based on the interrogating and to prevent further interrogating thereof for a preset period of time.

Please charge any fees incurred in connection with this submission to
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Respectfully submitted,

By: /Roger C. Phillips/
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Attorney for Applicants

Date: May 13, 2010

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